



amandla.mobi

2023 Annual report

AMANDLA MOBI
action for mzansi



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"I believe in our country, I believe in the African rebirth and I believe amandla.mobi is a very big contributor to that."

- Johannes, amandla.mobi member

"amandla.mobi has given us a platform to raise our voices and try get the government to hear us"

- amandla.mobi member

Our impact in 2023



7,5 MILLION

PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE R350 (USD19) EACH MONTH.



R7,4 BILLION

ALLOCATED TO EXTEND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME THAT WAS GOING TO BE CUT*.

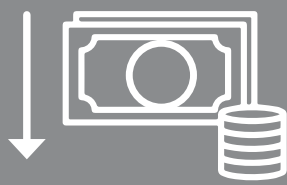


56 DECISION MAKERS ENGAGED

THROUGH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DRIVEN BY MOSTLY LOW INCOME BLACK WOMEN.

amandla.mobi continued to grow as a national movement with
978,174 members from every province.

Our 2023 survey found that our members are:



84%
LOW-INCOME



76%
WOMEN



87% Black

amandla.mobi is a movement of people from different backgrounds. What unites us is our belief that we can hold decision-makers to account when we act together to amplify the voices of those most impacted by injustice.



Executive Director's Message

We started 2023 with an extensive survey to identify which issues we should prioritise. We collectively created a shared agenda for 2023 through this consultation process with our movement.

amandla.mobi members gave us a clear mandate:

To run and win campaigns that address the immediate cost of living crises by focusing on three key interventions: social grants, unemployment and food prices. Other key issues remained priorities for our members, such as gender-based violence (GBV), health, education, corruption and governance. However, given the cost of living crises, it was critical to respond to the immediate needs of our members, the majority of whom are low-income, Black and women.

While we campaigned to address the cost of living crises, we faced another challenge:

trying to find and connect with visionary funders who provide large multi-year unrestricted grants. I would like to thank our partners and funders who helped resource our work. I want to especially acknowledge the Mulago Foundation, which instantly understood our potential and equipped us with new frameworks that sharpened our strategy to accelerate scaling.

Most of all, I would like to thank members of the amandla.mobi community. You power our work; this report is dedicated to you, as always.

Together for justice
Koketso Moeti

"Through mass consultation with members of our movement, we collectively shaped amandla.mobi's campaign priorities for 2023. Every time I engage with our members and hear about their struggles for dignity, it is a powerful reminder of who we are and why we campaign for justice."



Chairperson's Message

A dear friend of mine, Purity, once said to me if those of us who know what needs to be done, don't do it, it will not get done. It will wait for another generation. When I look at the impact of amandla.mobi's members, partners and team in 2023, I am reminded of the power of community members who step up and tirelessly campaign for justice.

amandla.mobi plays a critical role in resourcing those most impacted by injustice. Again and again, amandla.mobi has proven that those closest to a problem are best placed to identify the solution and lead the charge to create lasting change. From small-scale fishers getting the attention of the Environment Minister to residents of Tshwane Region 7 demanding clean water, amandla.mobi has helped those who step up amplify their demands.

2023 has not been without challenges. Over the last 12 months, core amandla.mobi funders who provide unrestricted grants have shifted their strategy, making South Africa no longer a priority country. This funding reprioritisation has meant that amandla.mobi, through no fault of its own, has faced funding cuts at a time when the organisation's track record and impact have never been higher. On behalf of the Board, I want to acknowledge the amandla.mobi team's resilience and tireless dedication to serving our movement members and partners despite funding challenges.

Under Koketso Moeti's leadership, amandla.mobi has deepened democracy and made public participation more inclusive. In recognition of her contributions and expertise, Koketso was announced an inaugural Keseb Democracy Fellow. Koketso will share key lessons from the amandla.mobi's movement building works with other leaders from around the world who are working to advance inclusive and resilient democracies. 2024 is a critical year for democracy worldwide, making global collaboration and innovation more important than ever.

Together for justice
Nomzamo Zondo

"Unfortunately, in the world of philanthropy, if an organisation increases its impact, this does not increase its chances of securing additional funds. Despite amandla.mobi's impact, the organisation has had to work harder than ever to find impact-focused visionary funders."

About amandla.mobi

amandla.mobi is a community organisation committed to building a more just and people-powered Mzansi (South Africa).

amandla.mobi works to turn every cell phone into a democracy-building tool so that those most affected by poverty, violence and corruption – Black women from low socio-economic backgrounds – can access cutting-edge tools to organise their communities in numbers that incentivise accountability from those in power and deliver change to people's lives.

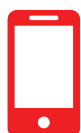
amandla.mobi was launched in June 2014 as a non-profit company. In 2015 the South African Revenue Service (SARS) certified amandla.mobi as a registered Public Benefit Organisation with 18A (tax deductibility) status.

How we work



Amplifying the voices of the marginalised

We work to ensure those most impacted by a decision are able to make their voices heard and hold decision-makers to account. To build the collective power of the marginalised, we run mobile, multi-lingual, multi-issue campaigns that connect people across location, language and injustice.



People-powered campaigns

We work with our members, marginalised communities and values-aligned organisations to identify strategic opportunities and design targeted campaigns. Each campaign engages the decision-maker using people-powered tactics such as petitions, protests, public comments etc.



Movement building

When a person participates in a campaign, there is an option to become more involved by signing up to receive regular updates about new and existing campaigns. With each campaign, more like-minded people become active members of the amandla.mobi community and help us shape our campaigns and the issues we prioritise.

.....



Inclusive civic tech

The digital era has made information and public participation more accessible to those who can afford internet access. We pioneered mobile tools to bridge the digital divide so that cost and access is not a barrier to civic action. But technology is just a tool that accelerates and scales real-world action.

.....



Holding decision-makers to account

We work to close the feedback loop between decision-makers and the people they should serve. Each campaign engages a decision-maker to implement a demand that could help address an issue. Our campaign model monitors to see if a decision-maker commits to and implements a specific decision, budget, policy or law that could have a tangible impact in the lives of the marginalised. Where decision-makers fail to act, new tactics or approaches are used to hold political and corporate interests to account.

Our Board



Nomzamo Zondo
Chairperson



Adele Kirsten
Board Secretary



Luke Jordan
Board Member

Our Team



Koketso Moeti
Executive Director



Paul Mason
Partnerships and Tech Manager



Laswet Savadye
Finance and Operations Manager



Tlou Seopa
Campaigner



Palesa Ramolefo
Junior Campaigner



Thabisile Miya
Member Engagement Officer



Zintle Tyuku
Member Engagement Officer



Nomcebo Mgaga
Office Administrator

Our Funders



"My team and I visited amandla.mobi in Johannesburg in 2023 and had the chance to spend several days witnessing first-hand how Elevate's unrestricted monetary investment allowed the organization to make strategic moves which have led to extraordinary growth and impact. For those looking to fund organizations raising the bar on digital activism and grassroots organizing, I strongly encourage you to consider amandla.mobi."

- Elevate Prize Foundation CEO Carolina García Jayaram

2023 in review – Our movement responds to the cost of living crisis

We started 2023 by consulting with our members across South Africa to identify key campaign priorities. Together, we began working to address the cost of living crisis by calling for social grant increases, food price transparency to supermarkets profiteering, and more resources to fund employment programmes.

Our first major action of 2023 saw over 500 amandla.mobi members and partner organisations come together and march to the President's offices at the Union Buildings in Tshwane (Pretoria). Throughout the year, we worked with our members and partners to ensure that those in positions of power heard our demands loud and clear whenever key decisions were being made. 2023 saw us continue to refine key civic engagement strategies and tactics, such as sourcing key data and testimonies from our members for public submissions, using petitions to demonstrate and focus public support, organising public demonstrations, engaging the media, and constantly communicating and coordinating with our members to ensure we strategically wield resources and build people-power to maximise impact.

This report looks at five key campaigns we ran in 2023 and their impact. However, many other important campaigns were also run in 2023, and they are highlighted first.

"amandla.mobi gives me a way to contribute to changing South Africa for the better"

- James, amandla.mobi member

"I believe amandla is an important organisation that challenges the government and gives people like myself a platform to raise our concerns."

- amandla.mobi member

Some of the many important campaigns we ran and supported in 2023 include:

Campaigning to remove barriers to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by the Centre for Early Childhood Development.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/no-more-admin-penalties-for-struggling-eed-centres-in-cape-town>

Calling for criminal justice reform to make clearing criminal records easier for the unemployed. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by Clear Me.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/automatic-clearance-of-a-criminal-record-on-your-police-records-system>

Demanding warning labels on all unhealthy food to help reduce diseases like type-2 diabetes and high blood pressure. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by HEALA.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/demand-warning-labels-on-all-unhealthy-food>

Removing anti-poor barriers to applying for a job as a traffic officer. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by amandla.mobi member Theko Thamaga.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/rtmc-to-do-away-with-medical-certificate-as-a-prerequisite-for-trainee-traffic-applications>

Calling for clean water for communities of Tshwane Region 7, forcing Minister of Water and Sanitation to respond. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by amandla.mobi member Queen Mdluli.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/stop-dirty-water-in-tshwane-region-7-fix-bronkhorstspuit-water-treatment-plant>

Protecting the independence of the national broadcaster from political interference. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by the SOS Coalition.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/withdraw-the-flawed-sabc-bill>

Building support across political parties for action against GBV. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by Soul City.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/commit-to-ending-gbv-a-call-to-action-for-south-african>

Calling on Minister Creecy to agree to allocation for small-scale fishers. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by the Masifundise Development Trust. The Minister failed to provide what the department had promised, but this was a step in the right direction.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/petition-for-minister-creecy-s-promised-increase-in-traditional-line-fish-allocation-for-ssf>

Calling on Minister Motshekga to agree to keep South African schools alcohol-free. This campaign was launched on awethu.mobi by the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance.



<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/keep-south-african-schools-as-alcohol-free-zones>



CAMPAIGN 1

Extend, increase and fix R350 (USD19)
Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant

[View full campaign here](#)



Together with our members, we fought Treasury's attempts to end the R350 grant (given by government to low income people during Covid-19), which helps seven million people put food on table. Treasury tried to undermine the campaign by ignoring requests for evidence and pushing for anti-poor regulations. With our members we marched, petitioned, submitted public comments and did media interviews. While the R350 grant is still not enough and many are excluded, public pressure from our campaign helped secure an extension of the R350 grant to March 2025.

The R350 SRD grant was more important than ever in 2023. Food prices continued to soar, pushing many of our members even deeper into poverty. While we planned our campaign to extend and increase the R350 grant, it also became clear we needed to call for administration issues to be fixed. We received countless messages from our members about problems at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), such as non-payment, delays with appeals and poor communication.

As President Ramaphosa prepared his State of the Nation Address, we organised a large march to make our voices heard. More than 500 people were part of the march we organised with amandla.mobi members and with community organisations from low-income communities across Gauteng, from Soweto to Thembisa. We marched from SASSA's head offices in Tshwane to the President's office at the Union Buildings.

Grant recipients confronted SASSA officials with placards and chants demanding immediate action to address administration issues with social grants. The campaign action was important because it allowed those who were forced to go hungry due to SASSA's failures to hand over their demands directly to the Acting SASSA CEO Abraham Mahlangu.

The march attracted media attention and crowds as roads were closed for our march. When we reached the Union Buildings, a Presidency representative agreed to meet with a delegation of our members and community organisations.



The Presidency's representative Phil Mahlangu accepted our memorandum and promised to relay our messages to the President. On the 3rd February we received a letter acknowledging our demands.

President Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address spoke to a number of our campaign demands. He committed to providing a targeted basic income grant, building on the innovation of the R350 SRD grant to reach all those who need it. The President also stated that existing social grants would be increased to cushion people experiencing poverty against rising inflation.

"Watching families like mine struggling every day to put food on the table, angers me and breaks my heart. The President has to deliver for the people."

- Gogo Eunice Manzini

The next step for the campaign was to engage with Parliament's public hearings on the budget. We worked hard to gather testimonies for our written and oral submissions to the finance committees. We used the hearings to increase pressure on Treasury to be transparent and provide the evidence that informed their decisions not to increase grants and progressive taxes adequately. Our persistence paid off when the co-chair of the joint finance committee instructed Deputy Director-General Edgar Sishi to provide us with the necessary information.

"Treasury, you have no choice, the Constitution binds you to [Parliament]... amandla.mobi has asked for evidence, provide it. Give the information they've asked for on SRD grants."

- Co-Chair of Parliament's Joint Finance Committee meeting, Yunus Carrim

As the year progressed, our campaign continued. In the lead-up to the Finance Minister's October budget update, amandla.mobi members directly contacted different decision-makers. We were pleased when the Finance Minister's speech announced that the R350 SRD grant would be extended until March 2025. This announcement was significant and an encouraging sign that public pressure was working. While Treasury was able to cut the number of people receiving the R350 grant from 10 million to 7 million, the extension of the grant gives us time to further build public support to push to increase and expand the R350 SRD grant.



While we made some progress pushing for social grant increases and the extension of the R350 grant as a key step towards turning it into a Basic Income Grant, we also continued to monitor messages from our members to pick up emerging social grant administration issues. In September, we were flooded with messages that many grant recipients had not been able to access their social grants for several days. We responded by raising the public alarm and securing key media interviews to turn up the pressure.

Our economic justice lead campaigner, Tlou Seopa, confronted Postbank CEO Nikki Mbengashe in a TV interview regarding a major administration issue which had resulted in many grant recipients being unable to access funds for several days.

The campaign involved:

- Organising a march with over 500 people to the President's office at the Union Buildings.
- Organising meetings and workshops in low-income communities to discuss social grants, progressive taxes and our campaign for a Basic Income Grant.
- Presenting powerful personal testimonies from campaign supporters to government and Parliament as part of public participation processes.
- Gathering over 500 comments from our members explaining why government's proposed amendments to the R350 grant were anti-poor.
- Coordinating with our members to flood decision-makers with SMS messages and calls to demonstrate ongoing public pressure.
- Putting together scorecards in response to speeches and statements from the President and Finance Minister.
- Using TV interviews and other media coverage to help us expose administration issues from SASSA and other public institutions.

"I agree with amandla.mobi's way of working and the fact that it is the oppressed themselves who guide the work."

- Janneke, amandla.mobi member





CAMPAIGN 2

Food Prices Must Fall

 [View full campaign here](#)



In response to our members raising the alarm about skyrocketing food prices, we engaged with researchers and civil society groups that have monitored and analysed food justice issues. Together, we launched our Food Prices Must Fall campaign with a petition that quickly gathered 17,000 signatures, we sourced testimonies and data from our members to communicate the issue at hand, and engaged the media and decision-makers. The Competition Commission, a key public watchdog on profiteering, intensified their monitoring and investigation into unjustified food price increases, while Cabinet instructed key departments to put together an action plan to address food prices.

Despite our campaigns helping to secure some social grant increases over the years, our members raised the alarm about high food prices, and we quickly realised that if we didn't try to address high food prices, social grants would put less and less food on the table.

While there is little we can do about food price increases driven by conflict, drought and other external factors, the big question for us was whether the price increases were justified. Food producers and retailers in South Africa have a history of profiteering, from a bread price-fixing scandal¹, to one of the largest supermarkets price gouging garlic and ginger at the height of Covid-19².

Before launching our Food Prices Must Fall campaign, we reached out to experts in the field such as Dr Tracy Ledger who had raised concerns about significant price differences between the farm gate and supermarket shelves. We also leveraged the extraordinary contribution and work of Manakhe Chiya, Julie Smith and Mervyn Abrahams of the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity (PMBEJD) Group, who have tracked food prices in low-income communities each month for over five years.

OUR MEMBERS RAISED THE ALARM ABOUT



Farm price



R17
a dozen


Supermarket price



R35
a dozen


Why such a big price difference?

We designed the food prices campaign to engage key decision-makers. The campaign called on supermarkets to prove their food prices are justified by opening their books and being transparent about pricing. We called on government to give the Competition Commission more powers and resources to tackle profiteering and. Finally, for government to play a bigger role in tackling unfair food prices of basic necessities³.



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Food Prices Must Fall

[UPDATE] Good news! The Competition Commission announced in March 2023 that they are investigating the prices of essential food products. Loadshedding, the conflict in Ukraine and other issues have impacted food prices. However, the Competition Commission is still concerned that some price increases are not justified and are looking at sunflower oil, white and brown bread, and maize meal [1]. The Competition Commission touched a nerve within big business, with the CEO of Pick n Pay attacking the Commission. This is the same Pick n Pay who were price gouging garlic and ginger at the height of Covid-19 [2]. Big businesses must open their books to show us they are not using a crisis like load-shedding as an excuse to increase prices, similar to how some businesses used Covid-19 to

17,949 of 50,000 signatures

First name:

Last name:

Your email:

Province:

☒
Yes. Keep me up to date with this campaign and others via email

Sign the petition

Are we going hungry because supermarkets are overcharging us? Supermarkets buy from farmers and sell to us for a profit, but the difference in price is often really big. If supermarkets have nothing to hide they can easily open their books so we can see if prices are fair. Just like we did with data prices; if enough of us come together, supermarkets will have to explain themselves.

The campaign quickly gathered momentum, with over 17,000 people adding their name to the petition. We were encouraged when the Competition Commission announced they would be further investigating prices of essential foods⁴, including items that many of our members had highlighted.

The campaign continued to gather momentum, and we were encouraged when in August, Cabinet announced that they were putting in place an action plan to address food prices⁵.

In a country that produces more than enough food for everyone, the issue of food justice is important. South Africa's food system is broken, given the high levels of hunger, malnutrition, stunting, and diet-induced non-communicable diseases.

The moment I saw the 5kg maize meal priced to be around R50, I realised prices have gone up for real. It is difficult for families surviving on the grant only. You'll also find that people live with family. How will they survive since we don't even have jobs?

- Nondumiso

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

*Slightly edited for brevity and clarity

Many amandla.mobi members have said these food items have gone up in price the most.

bread

rice

maizemeal

meat

vegetables

oil

eggs



AMANDLA
action for mzansi

The campaign involved:

- Surveying members to understand what they have had to give up to afford food prices.
- Launching a petition to put the issue and our demands on the radar of the campaign's decision-makers.
- Using testimonies from our members to paint a picture of how dire high food prices are, especially for those who don't know the cost of bread.
- Writing letters to members of Cabinet to follow up on public statements that the issue of food prices would be addressed.
- Engaging with media to help build public awareness and shape the narrative around food prices.



CAMPAIGN 3

Don't scrap employment programme
for young people

[View full campaign here](#)



We worked with Youth Capital to campaign for the continued funding of the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES), a key employment programme for young people.

The campaign gained significant public support, and the Finance Minister agreed to extend the employment programme for another year. When we discovered the programme's extension was being funded by cuts to other employment programmes, we re-engaged campaign supporters to oppose these cuts. The Finance Minister went on to announce R7.4 billion would be allocated to extend the PES, which was R2 billion more than planned, with only a small portion of the extension funded by reallocating funds from other employment programmes.

amandla.mobi members made it clear that unemployment should be an issue we prioritise in 2023, so we monitored for campaign opportunities. In 2022 an amandla.mobi member launched a campaign on our awethu.mobi platform to push for the extension of contracts for teacher assistants. The campaign gained significant support, with over 40,000 signatures. While the campaign could not get contracts extended, other than for a small portion people, we looked for opportunities to build on the campaign's momentum.

We contacted Youth Capital, a non-profit organisation working to advocate for policies to address youth unemployment. Youth Capital had started campaigning for the extension of a key youth unemployment programme, called the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES), which funded programmes including the teacher assistants' programme. We met with Youth Capital and they launched a petition on our awethu.mobi platform to amplify their demands. We used SMS, WhatsApp and email to engage our members and begin to mobilise public support. The campaign built on a strong evidence base as Youth Capital's research suggested that 8 out of 10 unemployed young people in South Africa have never had a job before⁶. This lack of work experience represents a major barrier for young people trying to enter the job market, and the PES played a critical intervention as it provided young people with experience and opportunities to develop work skills.

To: National Treasury, Minister of Finance

Urge the Minister of Finance & National Treasury to continue funding short-term work opportunities

Campaign created by Youth Capital

24,778 of 25,000 signatures

Sydney signed 17 minutes ago Bongile signed 2025-01-10 Lucia signed 2025-01-08

Sign the petition

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Province

Phone Number

☐ Yes. Keep me up to date with this campaign and others via email

Campaign Update Just before the Budget Speech in February 2024, Youth Capital and amandla.mobi submitted 24,500 signatures to the Minister of Finance. Minister Godongwana announced that R7.4 billion has been identified for the Presidential Employment Initiative.

URGE NATIONAL TREASURY TO SAVE THE FUTURES OF YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS

SIGN THE PETITION TODAY

Youth Capital's sources suggested the PES could be coming to an end, so our campaign strategy focused on building significant public support in the lead up to the Finance Minister's Mid-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS), which represented a key decision-maker point that would determine the future of the programme. On the eve of the budget speech, over 16,000 names of people who signed the petition were delivered to the Finance Minister.

"...the Presidential Employment Initiative will be extended for another..."

- Finance Minister Godongwana

Together with Youth Capital, we were encouraged when the Finance Minister announced a one year extension of the PES. However, with any announcement, we needed to scrutinise the details of the statement and analyse the budget documents. We quickly realised the Finance Minister was extending the programme by repurposing funds from existing public employment programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Community Works Programme (CWP). This was an unacceptable outcome as the extension was coming at the cost of other public employment programmes. In other words, the budget was pitting one solution against the other.

We worked closely with Youth Capital to highlight this issue at Parliament's appropriations committee public hearings. We also updated campaign supporters and resolved to demand that any extension should not come at the cost of other employment programmes. We worked with our members to build more public support to ensure the Finance Minister's budget speech would announce an extension that was not simply shuffling funding around.

"More opportunities are needed. We can't just get rid of the ones that already exist."

Lesedi - campaign supporter who was part of the employment programme

We mobilised more public support for the campaign and delivered over 24,500 signatures, to the Minister of Finance in early 2024, demanding the continued funding of short-term work opportunities that are part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus. When the Finance Minister Godongwana delivered his budget speech in Parliament on 21 February 2024, he announced R7.4 billion would be set aside for the Presidential Employment Initiative⁷.

"Young jobseekers are the big winners in the budget, in which an extra R7.4bn has been added to the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) Programme in 2024"

- Journalist Tamar Kahn

Based on Youth Capital's sources, we learnt that the R7.4 billion allocation was R2 billion more than had been previously planned, and while part of the R7.4 billion announcement included funds that were reallocated from other public employment programmes, significantly less was allocated than the Finance Minister had planned in his November 2023 budget statement.

We have since learned that an additional R2 billion is being allocated to the Initiative, which in times of fiscal constraints is a great win! While other public employment programmes did receive some funding cuts, it was much less than had been hinted at in the medium-term budget speech in October 2023.



CAMPAIGN 4

Say NO to anti-poor tax increase

 [View full campaign here](#)



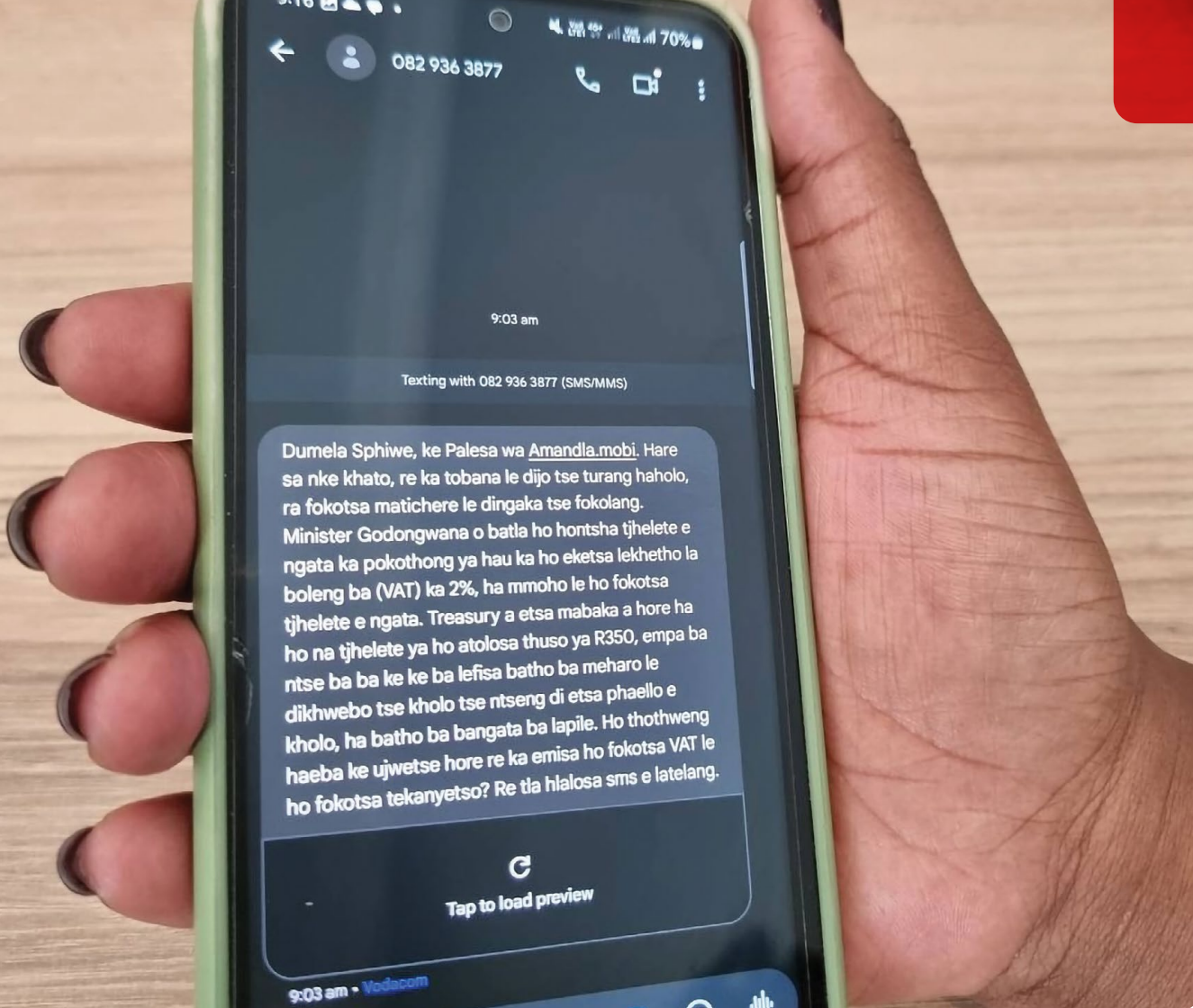
Treasury aggressively tried to divide and scare members of the public into opposing the extension of the R350 grant. Treasury claimed that the country could not afford the grant and, if extended, would have to be funded by a 2% increase of Value Added Tax (VAT) –which disproportionately impacts people with low incomes. We campaigned to expose Treasury’s nonsensical proposal to take money from those experiencing poverty to fund a social grant for those experiencing poverty. In November the Finance Minister did announce budget cuts to health and education; however, he did not announce a VAT increase, and announced that the R350 grant would be extended by more than a year to March 2025.

Over the years as we have amplified calls for pro-poor budgets and secured some key victories, such as social grant increases, we have noted that Treasury has become increasingly vocal in opposing demands of progressive civil society. Treasury has even gone as far as to undermine and contradict public commitments from the President and Cabinet.

In 2023 Treasury intensified its media engagement strategy to try to counter public support for our campaign demand to extend and increase the R350 grant until it was turned into a Basic Income Grant. Treasury sought to scare and undermine our campaign demands by stating that the country could not afford to extend the R350 grant without increasing the Value Added Tax (VAT) by 2%⁸. Treasury also threatened that extending the R350 grant would come at the expense of other types of social grants and may also result in budget cuts to health and education.


TREASURY HAS EVEN GONE AS FAR AS TO UNDERMINE AND CONTRADICT PUBLIC COMMITMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET





Treasury's strategy essentially sought to pit different social grant beneficiaries against one another, as well as pit different civil society groups against one another. This strategy threatened to divide public support amongst low-income communities. Treasury's statements were also parroted by conservative anti-poor commentators and publications. The public narrative pushed conveniently side-stepped progressive tax measures such as increasing personal income tax for the wealthy, increasing corporate income tax for big business, introducing a wealth tax, and increasing taxes on products that cause significant social harms such as cigarettes, alcohol, carbon and sugary drinks.

TREASURY ALSO THREATENED

THAT
EXTENDING 
THE R350 GRANT
WOULD COME AT
THE EXPENSE OF
OTHER TYPES OF
SOCIAL GRANTS AND
MAY ALSO RESULT
IN BUDGET CUTS
TO HEALTH AND
EDUCATION.



WE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER TREASURY'S NARRATIVE

We launched a campaign to counter Treasury's narrative, including pointing out that extending the R350 grant by increasing VAT by 2% was nonsensical as Treasury would be providing a social grant to those experiencing poverty by taxing those very same people.

We chose not to underestimate Treasury's threats of increasing VAT given that in 2018, with no warning at all, Treasury had announced that VAT would be increased by 1%. While all consumers pay VAT, it disproportionately impacts South Africa's poor majority. We worked with our members to mobilise public support, reminding people that decision-makers often do terrible things when they think no one is noticing their

devious actions. Through messages and phone calls we ensured that decision-makers knew full well that we saw through Treasury's fear mongering and "divide and conquer" strategy. During the Finance Minister's budget statement speech on 1 November the Minister did not announce any VAT increase, and we were encouraged when he announced that the R350 grant would be extended by more than a year to March 2025.

The campaign involved:

- Setting up a campaign tool that allowed our members to submit public comments to Treasury.
- Coordinating with our members to make phone calls to different decision-makers who could relay our members' concerns.
- Creating social media content exposing Treasury's tactics.
- Collating and presenting testimony from our members at Parliament's public hearings.



CAMPAIGN5

All eligible students at CUT must be
allowed to graduate

[View full campaign here](#)



Over 500 students were preparing to apply for jobs as they had completed their studies and were due to receive their qualifications. However, weeks before the graduation Central University of Technology (CUT) published a list which excluded over 500 students. Shocked, students inquired why they had been excluded and were told they had failed to submit documents such as a copy of their identity documents, which students quickly pointed out they had in fact already submitted when enrolling years ago. Minothando Hlanganyana, an amandla.mobi Campaigner Fellow, was one of the students affected. She quickly started organising other students and used a petition, protest and radio interview. The campaign resulted in the university agreeing to allow excluded students to graduate a month later.

Over 500 mostly low-income students who were due to graduate at the Central University of Technology (CUT) in the Free State province discovered they had been excluded from the graduation list and would not be allowed to graduate in September. Having worked hard to complete their studies, these eligible students were preparing to receive their qualifications in order to start applying for jobs.

When students started questioning why they had been excluded from the graduation ceremony, CUT administration informed them that they had failed to submit certified copies of documents such as the identity document and high school certificates. However, students pointed out that these documents are submitted by students when applying to study at CUT, and that the University had failed to notify them of this requirement.

Students used a Facebook group to voice their dissatisfaction and to begin organising. Minothando Hlanganyana, an affected student and amandla.mobi Campaigner Fellow, designed and launched a campaign. She launched a petition on awethu.mobi for affected students and family members to voice their frustrations. A protest was held outside the University's Bloemfontein campus⁹.

STUDENTS USED A
 **FACEBOOK
GROUP**
TO VOICE THEIR
DISSATISFACTION
AND TO BEGIN
ORGANISING.

After campaigning against the University's stance, Minothando organised an interview on the largest Sesotho radio station, Lesedi FM. In the interview Minothando explained the campaign demands and a University official was invited to explain the University's side of the story. After the interview, the University conceded to some of the demands of the campaign and agreed that students who were left behind could graduate a month later of the same year.



2023 Campaigner Fellowship

The annual Campaigner Fellowship programme is a four-month full-time paid Fellowship open to Black women and gender non-conforming people.

The amandla.mobi Campaigner Fellowship is designed for writers and community organisers to receive training in best practice campaigning, intensive coaching and hands-on practical experience in running campaigns that use petitions, public submissions, protests and other tactics to hold those in power to account.

The six Fellows in 2023 were Palesa Ndlovu, Celokuhle Radebe, Natasha Mhlanga, Ritza Mandleni, Queen Mdluli and Minothando Hlanganyana.



Celokuhle Radebe



Minothando Hlanganyana



Natasha Mhlanga



Palesa Ndlovu



Queen Mdluli



Ritza Mandleni

Financials

2022

2023

Revenue



R14,025,910



R12,924,719

Expenditure



R10,917,822



R8,959,956

What's left



R3,108,088



R3,964,763

2023 Financials

[View 2023 Annual Financial Statement](#)


AMANDLA.MOBI NPC

(Registration number: 2014/176307/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2023	2022
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	1 560 394	1 469 944
Current Assets			
Grants receivable	3	2 862 210	100 000
Cash and cash equivalents	4	17 962 782	18 177 302
		20 824 992	18 277 302
Total Assets		22 385 386	19 747 246
Reserves and Liabilities			
Reserves			
Total special reserves	5	12 432 791	-
Operating reserve		2 500 000	10 968 028
		14 932 791	10 968 028
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts and other payables	6	76 070	933 776
Provisions	7	31 325	63 268
Deferred income	8	7 345 200	7 782 174
		7 452 595	8 779 218
Total Reserves and Liabilities		22 385 386	19 747 246

AMANDLA.MOBI NPC

(Registration number: 2014/176307/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2023	2022
Revenue	9	11 832 700	13 498 805
Other income	10	81 507	34 206
Operating expenses		(8 959 956)	(10 917 822)
Operating surplus		2 954 251	2 615 189
Investment revenue	11	1 010 512	492 899
Surplus for the year		3 964 763	3 108 088

AMANDLA.MOBI NPC

(Registration number: 2014/176307/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Figures in Rand	2023	2022
9. Revenue		
Grants and donations	11 832 700	13 498 805
Bread for the World	1 450 332	566 982
Centre for Australian Progress	-	2 524
Fundraising donations	120 995	11 768
Galombik Trust	-	150 000
Global Health Advocacy Incubator	4 121 096	1 434 482
Grow Great	-	200 000
Omidyar Network Fund Inc	467 800	3 350 320
Open Society Foundation SA	-	500 000
The Elevate Prize Foundation	190 540	1 566 346
The Mulago Foundation	976 782	868 090
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	4 505 155	1 909 905
Vital Strategies	-	2 938 388
	11 832 700	13 498 805
10. Other income		
Project costs recoveries	81 507	34 206
11. Investment revenue		
Interest revenue		
Bank	1 010 512	492 899
12. Audit fees		
Organisation audit	56 264	46 650
Special reports	53 144	48 703
	109 408	95 353
13. Employee cost		
Employee costs		
Basic	3 108 091	3 031 337
14. Cash (used in) generated from operations		
Net profit before taxation	3 964 763	3 108 088
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	155 210	189 447
Movement in provisions	(31 942)	(12 779)
Investment income	(1 010 512)	(492 899)
Changes in working capital:		
Decrease (increase) in accounts and other receivables	(2 762 211)	1 171 677
Decrease in accounts and other payables	(857 707)	842 117
Increase (decrease) in deferred income	(436 974)	4 659 885
	(979 373)	9 465 536

AMANDLA.MOBI NPC

(Registration number: 2014/176307/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2023	2022
Revenue			
Grants	9	11 832 700	13 498 805
Other income			
Projects costs recoveries	10	81 507	34 206
Interest received	11	1 010 512	492 899
		1 092 019	527 105
Direct Project Expenses			
Accommodation costs		28 968	17 599
Campaign promotions		1 380 210	5 011 215
Campaign activities		254 673	-
Consulting fees		1 126 521	801 929
Donations		95 270	-
Fellowship costs		62 017	-
Media services		53 268	58 564
Meetings and workshops		33 545	-
Membership contribution		188 679	156 759
Online services		514 264	380 439
Transport costs - ground travel		123 361	167 487
Travel costs		18 235	10 670
Travel and accommodation		379 891	63 744
Total direct project expenses		4 258 902	6 668 406
Administration Expenses			
Accounting fees		35 129	25 934
Audit fees	12	109 408	95 353
Bank charges		29 215	25 179
Depreciation		155 210	189 447
Employee costs		3 108 091	3 031 337
Insurance		110 245	92 166
Legal expenses		57 285	32 473
Office supplies and minor equipment		124 564	60 018
Recruitment costs		123 180	-
Repairs and maintenance		532 350	463 719
Postage		965	11 841
Staff development and welfare		96 152	37 708
Telephone and internet		177 436	151 444
Utility costs		41 824	32 797
Total administration expenses		4 701 054	4 249 416
Total expenses		8 959 956	10 917 822
Surplus for the year		3 964 763	3 108 088

Together in 2023

In 2023,



We stood together with Youth Capital to call on Treasury and the Minister of Finance to continue funding short-term opportunities

#FUNDOURFUTURES

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023,



#HANDSOFF SABC

We stood together with the SOS coalition to call on the Minister of Communications to withdraw the flawed SABC Bill.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023 together we



Kopanang Africa
against xenophobia

Stood in solidarity with SERI in the fight to end xenophobia

In 2023 together we



Once again, took our different campaign demands to Parliament committees.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023 together we



national treasury
Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Submitted a PAIA request to National Treasury to provide written research evidence to back their decision not to increase grants and implement a wealth tax.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023 together we



Continued putting pressure on Finance Minister Godongwana to allow the marginalised majority to live in dignity by increasing all grants by R500. Social grants are still inadequate to sustain a living, and we continue the fight!

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023 together we



Continued to demand the extension and increase of the R350 grant. Although the grant has yet to be increased, it was extended to March 2025, giving us enough time to fight for it to be turned into a BIG.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023 together we



Continued to come together as a community, and held our leaders accountable for different issues. Much still needs to be done, but we wanted to thank every one of our members who joined campaigns and took action.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023,



We stood together with the Children's Institute to demand better mental health services for children.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

In 2023,



We stood together against high food prices.

AMANDLA
action for mzansi

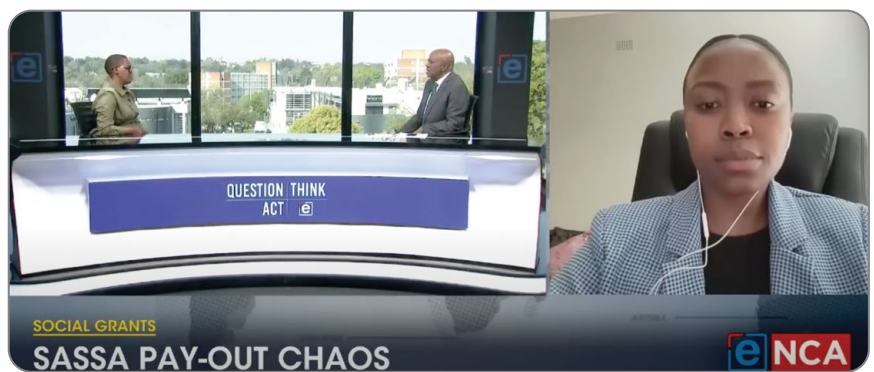
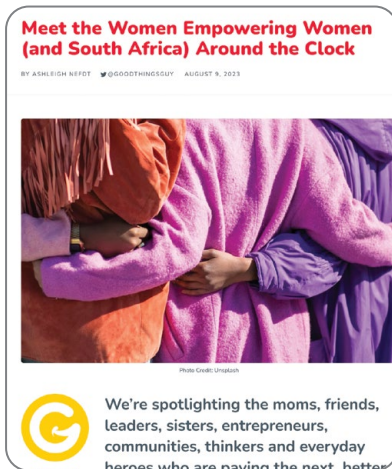
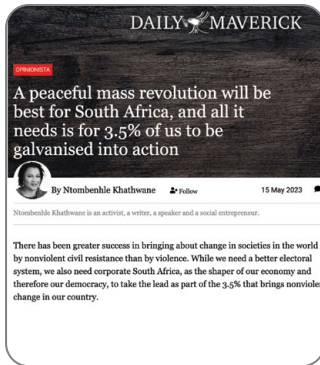
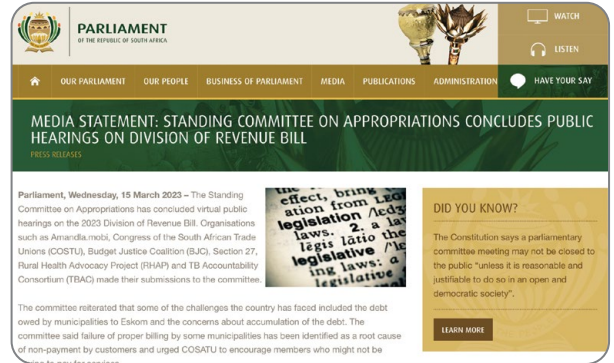
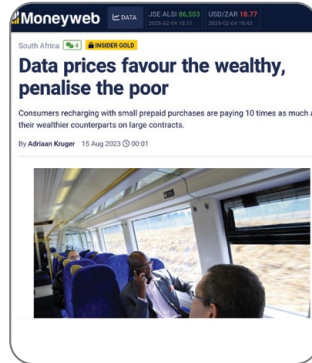
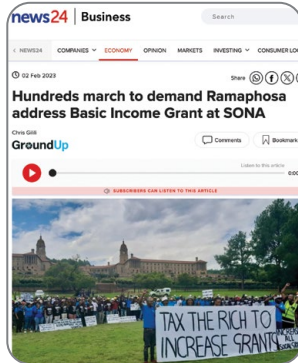
Some of the worst things that happened in 2023



Another Postbank 'glitch' delays January social grant payments
Long queues and constant system failures at SASSA Soshanguve office

The year 2023 started on a bad note, with some social grant recipients not getting paid on time in January due to system 'glitches'.

In the media



Endnotes

- 1 Tribunal Imposes Penalty of R195 million on Pioneer. Competition Tribunal statement. 3 February 2010.
- 2 Stores hiking garlic and ginger prices could face fines of up to R1m by Jolene Marriah-Maharaj for iol news. 4 February 2021.
- 3 Power and Governance in Agri-Food Systems: Key issues for policymakers. Tracy Ledger. March 2016.
- 4 Consumers hit by unjustified price hikes for staple foods in South Africa. Business Tech. 28 March 2023.
- 5 Cabinet approves action plan on food prices. SA Government News Agency. 31 August 2023.
- 6 ONE MILLION AND COUNTING: THE PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS. <https://youthcapital.co.za/one-million-and-counting-the-presidential-employment-stimulus/>
- 7 Presidential youth jobs programme receives R7.4bn boost in 2024 budget. Tamar Kahn for Business Day. 21 February 2024. <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2024-02-21-presidential-youth-jobs-programme-receives-r74bn-boost-in-2024-budget/>
- 8 <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-09-18-treasurys-proposed-austerity-measures-will-have-a-negative-impact-on-most-vulnerable-says-civil-society-coalition/>
- 9 <https://www.news24.com/news24/community-newspaper/express-news/cut-graduation-ceremony-continues-despite-disgruntled-students-20230828>

Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school handwriting practice paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the entire width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

"I believe amandla.mobi plays an important role in pushing our public spaces to be more inclusive, responsive and representative of the people of South Africa."

- Indra

"I'm a member of amandla.mobi because I love how they are helping our community."

- Masekao, amandla.mobi member

"amandla helps us a lot. Without them, we would not have received the R350."

- amandla.mobi member

amandla.mobi

2023 Annual report

AMANDLA
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